

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 10 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein, and claims 1 and 11 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 11 can be found in claims 1 and 11 as originally filed, and in the specification as originally filed, for example, at paragraphs [0051]-[0052], in Example 6 and in Fig. 2. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Bernatz during the March 22 telephonic interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, claims 1 and 11 are amended to comply with the Examiner's helpful suggestions made during the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0051380 A1 to Kamiguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,287,709 B1 to Mizuguchi. The Office Action also rejects claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamiguchi in view of Mizuguchi, as applied to claims 1-9, and further in view of applicants' alleged admissions. Because the rejection of claim 10 has been rendered

moot by the cancellation of that claim, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections with respect to claims 1-9 and 11.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the claimed exchange-coupled film "yields a high exchange coupling energy J_k of not less than $263 \mu\text{J}/\text{m}^2$." As discussed during the March 22 interview, this amendment places claims 1-9 and 11 into condition for allowance, at least because the claims are commensurate in scope with the unexpected results demonstrated. In particular and as agreed during the interview, the exchange-coupled film set forth in amended claim 1 provides unexpected results that cannot be derived from the combined references.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-9 and 11 are patentable over Kamiguchi, Mizuguchi and the alleged admissions. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 and 11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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